

STUDIES IN ANTILLEAN BOTANY

2. Two Additions to the Cuban Orchid Flora

- Alex D. Hawkes -

Botanical explorations in northern Cuba in 1947 added several new records to the flora of that island. Among these novelties for Cuba were two orchids, both members of the genus Oncidium. They are discussed briefly here.

Oncidium calochilum Cogniaux in Urb. Symb. Antill. 6(1910)
660.

Previously collected in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, this dwarf yellow-flowered terete-leaved species is now known from the island of Cayo Coco, Archipelago de Camaguey, Camaguey, Cuba. On the island it inhabits large trees of Bucida Buceras L. (Combretaceae), known locally as jucaro, in the margins of saline mangrove swamps. Its epiphytic companions are largely Epidendrum spp., Polystachya luteola (Sw.) Hook., Oncidium variegatum Sw., Campylocentrum Poeppigii (Rchb.f.) Rolfe, and Cattleyopsis Ortgiesiana (Rchb.f.) Cgn.

Oncidium floridanum Ames Sched. Orch. 7 (1924) 13.

Previously considered to be restricted to a few scattered hammock areas in southern peninsular Florida, this attractive yellow and brown terrestrial species, similar in habit and general floral formation to the Oncidium sphacelatum Idl. group, is now known to be very abundant in several places on Cayo Coco, Archipelago de Camaguey, Camaguey, Cuba. It forms large prolific colonies on the humid mucky floor of the scattered hammock formations in the central and southern parts of the island. Its occurrence elsewhere, on the mainland and in adjacent insular groups, is to be anticipated.

These two additions now bring the number of Oncidiums known from Cuba to fourteen. Other indigenous members of this group are: O. altissimum (Jacq.) Sw., O. Guibertianum A. Rich., O. Gundlachii Wr., O. intermedium Bert. ex Spreng., O. Leiboldii Rchb.f., O. luridum Idl., O. pulchellum Hk., O. sphacelatum Idl., O. sylvestre Idl., O. Tuerckheimii Cgn., O. usneoides Idl., and O. variegatum Sw.